

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 12-20 (after renumbering) are amended.

In the Office Action dated September 9, 2004, claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-8, 10-16, 18 and 19 (prior to renumbering) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kimura, U.S. Patent No. 6,657,486.

***Allowed claims 9 and 17***

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 9 and 17 (18 after renumbering).

***The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph***

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the second differential transistor pair has substrates connected to their respective sources. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejections.

***Renumbering of claims***

Claims 12-20 have been renumbered, to correct a misnumbering problem in the originally-submitted claims.

***The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)***

Claims 1-8, 10-16, 18 and 19 (prior to renumbering) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 recites "a first tail

current source transistor connected to sources of the first differential transistor pair." Claim 10 has a similar recitation. At least this aspect of the invention is not disclosed in Kimura. Specifically, the Office Action refers to the current source in Fig. 6 of Kimura labeled " $\frac{5}{4}I_0$ ". However, even if the current source  $\frac{5}{4}I_0$  were to be regarded as a tail current source, it is not connected to sources of the first differential transistor pair (treating, *arguendo*, the transistors M1 and M2 in FIG. 6 of Kimura as "a first differential transistor pair," as the Office Action has done). Instead, the current source  $\frac{5}{4}I_0$  is connected to transistors M5, M6 (which the Office Action referred to as a "**second** differential transistor pair"). However, in no way can it be said that the current source  $\frac{5}{4}I_0$  is connected to sources of the transistors M1, M2 in FIG. 6.

Accordingly, at least for this reason, independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable over Kimura. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejections.

### ***Conclusion***

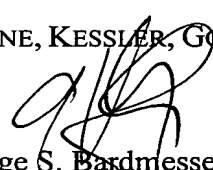
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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12/9/04

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